

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A gel composition for delivering an active substance to a nasal membrane, the composition comprising:

an active substance comprising ~~about~~ 0.185 wt % to ~~about~~ 2.8 wt % ionizable zinc salt; and

~~about~~ 75 wt % to ~~about~~ 99.8 99.815 wt % carrier, the carrier comprising an agent to facilitate diffusion of the active substance through mucous in the nasal passage comprising sodium chloride, the carrier further comprising glycerin, and about 75 90 to about 99 wt %, of the composition, purified water;

~~wherein the composition comprises, and~~ about 0.000001 % to ~~about~~ 5 wt%, of the composition, thickening agent selected from the group consisting of carrageenan, sugar, guar gum, hydroxycellulose, methylcellulose, and hydroxyethylcellulose.

12.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The gel composition of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 11, wherein the thickening agent comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.

17. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 11, wherein the active substance comprises zinc gluconate.

18. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 11, wherein the composition comprises less than about 1.5 wt % zinc gluconate.

19. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 11, further comprising a permeation enhancer.

20.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a cold, comprising the step of administering the gel composition of claim 11 to a nasal membrane.

23.-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) A system for applying a composition to a nasal membrane comprising an applicator and the gel composition according to claim 11.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The gel composition of claim 11, comprising ~~about~~ 0.9 to ~~about~~ 2.0 weight percent ionizable zinc salt.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The gel composition of claim 11, comprising ~~about~~ 0.1 to ~~about~~ 3 wt% thickening agent.

46. (Currently Amended) The gel composition of claim 11, comprising ~~about~~ 0.000001 to ~~about~~ 5 wt% glycerin.

47. (Currently Amended) The gel composition of claim 11, comprising about 4 to ~~about~~ 60 mM zinc ion.

48. (Currently Amended) The gel composition of claim 11, comprising about 20 to ~~about~~ 44 mM zinc ion.

49. (Currently Amended) The gel composition of claim 11, wherein the viscosity of the composition is between ~~about~~ 2,500 cp and ~~about~~ 40,000 cp.

50. (Currently Amended) The gel composition of claim 11, wherein the viscosity of the composition is between ~~about~~ 5,000 cp and ~~about~~ 20,000 cp.

51. (New) The gel composition of claim 11, comprising 0.000001 wt% to 5 wt% sodium chloride.